



Fact Sheet

Fort McCoy Public Affairs Office (608) 388-3456/4209

Commemorative Area

I. Purpose: Fort McCoy's Commemorative Area is designed to preserve the installation's heritage and to educate the community about Fort McCoy's role as a military training and mobilization site since 1909.

II. Background: During the 1990s, as the installation infrastructure was changed and modernized, the Command recognized the need to preserve selected facilities representative of how a typical cantonment area block looked when the post was constructed in 1942. This concept became a reality while planning activities to commemorate the 50th Anniversary (1991-1995) of World War II.

During 1993, five buildings in the 800 block were selected to be preserved as a commemorative area. These buildings were selected because their appearance had not been altered significantly since their construction in 1942. Each building remains structurally sound. Together, the buildings are representative of a standard company block layout found throughout the original cantonment area. The location of these five buildings allows for easy access by the public and will not interfere with present and future training missions. Minor maintenance and repair, including interior and exterior painting, was completed on each building prior to the placement of period furnishings, artifacts, and other informational displays.

Land adjacent to these five buildings later was developed as a site to permanently display equipment items representative of those used at Fort McCoy. Display pads were constructed and a variety of equipment items on hand were demilitarized and placed for exhibit. Efforts were made to acquire additional items with the assistance of the Center of Military History.

In 1997, a building adjacent to the Commemorative Area was renovated and converted for use as the installation History Center. Here, the story of Fort McCoy is told in chronological order through displays of uniforms, wall art, and artifacts. The entire Commemorative Area, its facilities, static equipment displays, and artifacts are managed in accordance with Center of Military History standards. Future items will be accessioned to further explain the history of Fort McCoy.

III. Facility Information: The Commemorative Area is located in the southeast corner of the cantonment area on East S Street and East 12th Avenue.

Building 839 is a 2,350-square-foot mess hall with a capacity to seat 172 enlisted personnel. The structure was completed Aug. 28, 1942 at a cost of \$15,230. Display items include kitchen equipment, a stocked pantry, and a military food exhibit.

Building 840, originally a barracks for enlisted personnel, is set up with a chapel display and an extensive exhibit of military training aids.

Building 841, also a barracks for enlisted personnel, currently is configured as a day room with pictorial exhibits highlighting military history.

Building 842 is furnished as a World War II barracks for enlisted personnel. The 5,310-square-foot building has a 48-person capacity, and was completed Aug. 28, 1942 at a cost of \$16,698.

Building 843 is a 2,750-square-foot administrative/supply facility. This structure was completed July 29, 1942 at a cost of \$10,130. Display items include office furnishings, potbellied stoves and period wall art.

History Center features a variety of exhibits and displays arranged in chronological order depicting Fort McCoy's history from the time the installation was founded in 1909 to the present day.

Equipment Park currently has more than 35 items on display, which range from helicopters and howitzers to trucks and trailers. The design of the park allows for future expansion as new items are acquired. A brochure is available on site, which contains information about each piece of equipment as well as a park layout guide.

IV. Contacts: There are no established hours of operation for the commemorative area complex. Group tours can be arranged by contacting the Public Affairs Office, 100 E. Headquarters Road, Fort McCoy, WI 54656-5263, telephone (608) 388-2407.